(d) The Government has issued detailed guidelines to check delay in grant of sanction for prosecution, specifying a time-frame for disposal.

(e) Out of 28 cases pending as on 31st December, 2006 for prosecution sanction in respect of Group A' officers of the Central Government against whom the Central Vigilance Commission had advised launching of prosecution, only 1 case was pending for sanction as on 30th April, 2007.

Cases pending with CBI

3893. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of cases pending with CBI are increasing rapidly day by day;

(b) if so, the cases pending with the CBI as on 31st March, 2007, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for delay in finalizing the cases; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to finalize a case within a stipulated period and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) No, Sir. The number of cases pending under investigation in the CBI during the last five years is as follow:

Year	Number of cases
2002	1478
2003	1435
2004	1354
2005	1402
2006	1417

(b) As on 31.03.2007, there were 1474 cases under investigation with the CBI. The State-wise figures are not maintained by the CBI.

(c) and (d) Investigation of cases by the CBI takes time because of complicated nature of cases requiring scrutiny of voluminous documents and examination of large number of witnesses.

The CBI endeavours to complete investigation in all cases at the earliest. There is a laid down system of holding monthly and quarterly review meetings where the cases under investigation are examined by the CBI with a view to finalising them early. Norms have also been laid down in the CBI (Crime) Manual for finalization of investigation in various kinds of cases.

Filling up of backlog vacancies

3894. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of not filling up of backlog vacancies of SCs and STs by various Central Ministries, inspite of instructions from Hon'ble Prime Minister;

(b) if so, what action is proposed against those who have failed to carry out the instruction of Hon'ble Prime Minister; and

(c) the reasons for not giving top priority to work of filling up backlog vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) All the Ministries/Departments have taken action to fill up the backlog reserved vacancies of SCs and STs after the launch of the Special Recruitment Drive in August, 2004. As per information received upto 24.4.2007, about 52,665 backlog vacancies have been filled up.

(c) The filling up of the backlog vacancies has been given top priority by the Government.

Exposure of corruption

3895. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had recently informed the Supreme Court that the Central Vigilance Commission would protect those exposing corruption in Government Departments, till a legislation was enacted on the subject;